

REMARKS

Claims 10-12 are pending herein. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 are canceled and claims 10-12 are added. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for new claims 10-12 may be found in the original claims, and at, for example, paragraph [0039] of the present specification.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicant's admitted prior art (APA) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0015484 (Matsuura). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 are canceled; thus, this rejection is moot.

APA and Matsuura do not anticipate or render obvious claims 10-12.

Claim 10 recites an insulating sheet for a hard disk device comprising a resin film having insulating attributes and an adhesive layer attached to a surface of the resin film, wherein the adhesive layer is formed of polyester resin, the adhesive layer has an adhesiveness-exhibiting temperature higher than normal ambient temperature, a buffer layer having buffering attributes is attached to a surface of the adhesive layer, and the adhesive layer is exposed at an edge of the insulating sheet.

The Office Action acknowledges that APA fails to teach an adhesive layer having an adhesiveness-exhibiting temperature higher than normal ambient temperature, as recited in claim 10.

The Office Action asserts that Matsuura cures this deficiency. However, Matsuura merely discloses an adhesive sheet with an adhesive coated on one surface or both surfaces thereof, as described at paragraph [0197]. The adhesive sheet does not comprise a buffer layer. Furthermore, Matsuura does not describe a resin film having insulating attributes, as recited in claim 10.

Furthermore, neither APA nor Matsuura discloses or suggests an adhesive layer having adhesiveness-exhibiting temperature higher than normal ambient temperature, and the adhesive layer being exposed at an edge of the insulating sheet. Accordingly, even if APA describes an insulating sheet having a sticky adhesive layer, as asserted by the Office Action, the present combination of features recited in the claims still would not have been achieved.

The structure of the insulating sheet, as recited in claim 10, allows for benefits not disclosed or suggested by APA and Matsuura. For example, if an adhesive layer is exposed at an edge of an insulating sheet, but the adhesive is sticky at normal ambient temperature, then adjacent insulating sheets will attach together when brought into contact with each other and operability will be reduced. See paragraph [0039] of the present specification.

However, because the adhesive layer of the insulating sheet, as recited in claim 10, has an adhesiveness-exhibiting temperature higher than normal ambient temperature, and the adhesive layer is exposed at an edge of the insulating sheet, the structure of the insulating sheet does not have the problem described above because the adhesive layer has an adhesiveness-exhibiting temperature higher than normal ambient temperature.

For the foregoing reasons, APA and Matsuura, whether alone or in combination, fail to render obvious the subject matter of claim 10, as well as claims 11 and 12 depending therefrom.

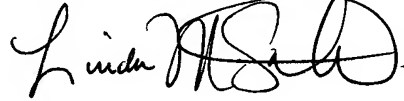
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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